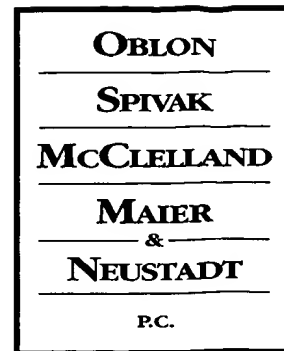




Docket No.: 0557-4885-2

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/472,249

Applicants: Atsuo SHIMADA, et al.

Filing Date: December 27, 1999

For: DOCUMENT PROCESSOR, DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION DEVICE, DOCUMENT
PROCESSING METHOD, DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION METHOD, AND COMPUTER-
READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM FOR
RECORDING PROGRAMS FOR EXECUTING THE
METHODS ON A COMPUTER

Group Art Unit: 2176

Examiner: NGUYEN, M.

RECEIVED

APR 23 2004

Technology Center 2100

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTON REQUIREMNET
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME (1 MONTH)**

Our check in the amount of \$110.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

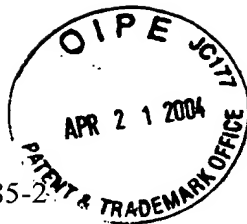
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DOCKET NO: 0557-4885-2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
ATSUO SHIMADA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: NGUYEN, M.
SERIAL NO: 09/472,249 :
FILED: DECEMBER 27, 1999 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2176
FOR: DOCUMENT PROCESSOR, :
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION DEVICE,
DOCUMENT PROCESSING METHOD,
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION
METHOD, AND COMPUTER-READABLE
RECORDING MEDIUM FOR
RECORDING PROGRAMS FOR
EXECUTING THE METHODS ON A
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 16, 2004, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group (Invention) II and Claims 8-10, 12, 13, 31-33, 35, 36 and 40 of the elected invention.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement for the following reason.

M.P.E.P. § 803 states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the


Application No. 09/472,249
Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2004

grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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GJM/SNS/GS:mda
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